The 2nd Meeting of the "Free University". 14th Feb. '87

C.R. I would like to say that personally I would prefer if this meeting went more towards the direction of money and how to get it, and the structure of the thing. Because the kind of talk we had at the last meeting will always be there.

K.G. There was something in the last minutes where somebody said that they didnt mind if it didnt actually come to a centre. The ultimate aim of the collective could maybe be defined a bit more clearly. Is it just wishful thinking that we're getting together and getting the energy and the enthusiasm together, or are we actually aiming for an end product? Therefore we have to define that - so maybe we can start talking about the extent to which we will need finance.

— Personally I would be interested in aiming for an end product because if we are not heading for an end product we're just a bunch of... a group of people meeting together bloody benefiting each other by some sort of interchange etcetera, we're not actually benefiting anyone else.

M.D. A common interest has'nt been stated yet about why people are getting together, let alone the destination. Before you can start talking about how an instution might function as a "Free University" whatever that might be - What is the common ground here between everybody?

S.B. Do you think we should'nt define too much in advance what it is to be and what way it will grow in a natural way.

C.T. Just by the nature of the thing it will probably become different over a period of time.

A.G. From the point of view of raising money - You raise money from people by telling them what you are raising it for. Now, what we tell them may be a lie or a partial truth, but one has to have some connection with something we are prepared to present and are agreed to present. So if you've got a fund raiser saying we want it for A, and everyone else is committed and running around and saying it's actually for B,C and D, this will actually militate getting the money at all. Therefore there has to be a limited base of agreement just from the practical point of view of getting any funds whatsoever.

A.D. One of the things that came out of the last meeting which I think is reflected in the minutes was very much the idea around the precedents. There was talk of attempts at Free Universities in America in the 50's onwards, Various attempts made in the 60's to organize Free Universities, Cultural Centres in the alternativist sense in the 70's and I think I raised the question - How does whats projected here differ from the 3rd Eye when it started.

A.G. The 3rd Eye started in a small gallery in Blythswood Square belonging to the Lady Artists Club designed by Rennie MacIntosh. The Lady Artists Club was dissolving. The Arts Council aquired this place as a gallery and an Arts Centre. The director they got to expand the place - Tom McGrath - his immediate feeling was that there was a discreet little place for putting on discreet exhibitions of "very good quality". He wanted to make it more popular. He initiated a complex property deal that made it possible to sell that site to a fairly rich business and get the site on Sauchiehall street. He wanted a place that a lot of people could pass by and come into. Thereafter he started expanding it. He was very keen on the pop music jazz and base and while he was there he organized pop style festivals and getting Indian mystical speakers and Buddhists. He was also keen on the Art gallery and he got the bureaucracy, a large number of people to help him handle what was increasingly and very busy. He had a news magazine. After doing this for 6 or 7 years Chris Carrell came in. I was just refering to the 3rd

Eye Centre as it was before it became what we now know it.

J.K. Was it always a place where the Council and the Arts Council...

A.G. It was an Arts Council foundation.

J.K. The important point for me would be that already even at that stage it began as instutionalised and in that sense it didnt have total control.

C.T. If you know the ins and outs, was Tom McGrath not one man who was trying to keep some sort of flexibility in spite of the Arts Council and the District Council.

I.M. There was'nt so much emphasis on education either and this is what Tom is getting involved in this Arts Centre down the road. He is quite involved with the Immediate Theatre Co. now. He is trying to do down there what he couldnt do up here.

A.G. Ian Milliken is the architect who is designing the Arts Centre for the Immediate Theatre Co.

S.B. Could you say a bit about this?

I.M. The Immediate Theatre put on productions all over Scotland, theyve helped local writers get established and felt it was time they had a base in Glasgow. Jim Morrison, Jess Corrigan are the main energy behind it and Tom McGrath came in about 6 months ago. Their idea is to create a contemporary Arts Centre down at Charing X encompassing all the arts with the emphasis on education. Theyre planning two theatres, recording studio, Cable television studio, local radio, bar, cafe, live music. Theyre going through all the problems of trying to raise the finance without getting politically tied. They want to continue it without subsidy because thats where the influence and ties come in. So thats the approach they made to these financial bodies, that they give an initial sum and then they are no longer involved. They researched it very thoroughly, they had to produce figures to show that they can stand on their own feet thereafter. I've been very impressed with the methodology they've used to calculate everything and to bring their ideas to fruition. I dont know what youre at here at the moment, I was invited because people said I might be interested and came to observe, not really to contribute. I think what theyre planning down there is going to be very exciting.

A.D. One of the things said about the 3rd Eye there was that it was very much Tom McGrath and now everything's changed etcetera, that the whole thing becomes very dependant on the energies of one or two people. The only respect in which everything envisaged here could possibly differ from what you are describing down at Charing X is possibly that same thing of where thats going to be the energies of two or three people who are committed to that project.

I.M. In fact I am just mentioning two or three but there's maybe a nucleus of about twelve.

— Just a general point about how instutions change because obviously in some sense as soon as something is instutioned it is an institution. If you have flexible ideas, those ideas survive for a certain amount of time. I'm just put in mind of a comment made by Alan Rogers who is an American sub culturist etcetera who has certain credible aspects, but anyway, he wrote one very interesting comment which was that a lot of the ideas for flexible education that he put forward. Instututions that have taken them seriously survive that way for maybe ten years or so, and then as people left them, get tired or whatever, the ideas are dropped out again, they just get normalised if you like. That's a problem that anything, whether it's this, whatever, is something that anyone is going to face. The question is, is it a reason for not doing it. It seems to me a reason for doing something contin-

If you take the line that the 'student' may be any age,wants to learn something from university (this ought to be possible in any university,but of course it isn't)...inter-departmental regulations.Since this is a free university,there may be in it a number of people who want to teach and rather enjoy doing it,and there will be people who get involved because they want to learn,then I cant see any danger.

CG: If there were 6 people who wanted to learn to grow cabbages,why couldn't they all get together and if one of them happened to know a lot about it,then it would be between the 6 people to decide where to get the information. More like a self-help group.

MMc: Isn't what we're talking about an exchange of experience - anybody's experience - we all want to learn as much as any of the anonymous people who want to use this building. It's just a case of swopping any bright ideas you may have with others. You want to put everybody into a pot abd say 'take out what you want',and to have a place that encourages that sortof inter-action.

AD: There's a sense in which the forum idea is the most interesting...

AG: You could get a spokesman - an intelligent one - from Glasgow District Council, to explain what the current architectural policy is and how it's working.You could have an interesting public debate.

MMac: The problem of the word 'teaching' emerged at the same time as we were thinking of ways to get money out of institutions. I think that those 2 points: ie.hierarchical teaching plus money - are by no means non-associated.

CR: Could we get back to how many jannies we need ?

AD: The organising of a forum is not necessarily predicated on whether you have a building or not. It could be done in Transmission - with proper seating and comfort. What kind of subjects for discussion would attract enough people from outside. Something controversial,to wind people up.

KM: It would be an idea to prefigure some of the kinds of activities which would be expected to go on in the building...to start them now.

PW: There are an awful lot of bodied that could be more linked up. Architects have a planning exchange...there's also the Maryhill Resource Centre and the City Farms.

JK: But it would be good to have a place that is accessible to people from all parts of Glasgow. I know that in Drumchapel there are houses that have been converted firstly into schools and then into a community centre,but if you were to lodge yourself there permanently,you would have to be involved with different types of organisations. I cant see why you couldnt use premises like that for perhaps a week.

PM: Maryhill Resource Centre is an example of a place where people have gone out into the community,not with any missionary zeal or evangelical purpose,but simply to sat 'This is what we have here,there are people here who can show you how to use these machines,you can produce your poster or leaflet or whatever.

KM: You cant get away from the fact that these centres exist,these jobs exist,the whole structure exists in relation to the community there in. You have to see them in some sort of historical context where people are deliberately led away by the local state into certain compromises. I cant really see these places as being of any great use at this moment in time. We need some kind of central plce to give a real shot-in-the-arm to what's happening in Glasgow.

MD: The whole idea of a free university is based on the idea of political opposition I take it. People who have been involved in other projects and are not satisfied with the way things have worked.We cant talk about making inroads to the existing

AD: There's the fragmentation into waht is passed off as 'community',there's the agencies which are brought in from outside which contain many admirable people who are very sincere in themselves,but their whole is to solicit people to be involved. You get on a glasgow bus and it says ITS YOUR BUS. It's the friendly avuncular arm round the shoulder thing,and that's a function of the way things are,it is not necessarily what we want them to be.

PK: I like the idea of a forum in that you are actually getting away from the idea that political parties are in any way vehicles for changing anything.By the year 2010,it would be nice to be able to say you have got involved in something that is not 'conventional politics ,and neither is it sitting alone in a room or just getting involved in a local arts centre,but instead meeting people completely different from yourselves,who are involved in completely different things,who represent themselves,their experience or other people. You might get 12 people from the City Farm who want to send along a delegate every month. It need not be the same person each month: the beginnings of a forum outwith the state.

MMac: I am very interested in ideas about libraries. It would be very nice to have some sort of organised dumping ground wheer people could put things that were inteersting.A generalised Reading Room.[A depot].You wouldnt want it to be over-structured. Printed information is something we are going to need. Old series like Thinkers Library can be got reasonably cheaply.10 or 20p each.

PK: Or even information about claimant's unions around the country.Examples of things going on right now. A lot of the problem is that people may be doing things which are very interesting but dont get reported by the media through London. There are initiatives in Sheffield.

JK: How many people in Drumchapel know what kind of things are going on in Gorbals. How important it would be for people in Summerston to know what was being done in Gorbals,Easterhouse and Castlemilk. Claimant's unions,damp - crucial information - and here is philosophy,here is growing cabbages.

TL: ...Just talking in terms of CB radio...apparently in Italy some local groups can use VHF. It would be great if we could actually start a radio station:that would solve a lot of problems.There's a lot of people who have work,including myself,that could never be broadcast anywhere else.That is a simple political point obviously. Just that this might be the kind of thing that could be possible.

AD: One difficulty with a pirate station is the lack of response. You put your voice out into the ether and the response is worse than when you're printing something.

KM: ...and they ofetn end up by playing just music all the time. A kind of 10th pop station.

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AT THE END OF THIS MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT FOR THE NEXT MEETING,THE FOLLOWING WOULD FORM THE AGENDA:

1. Report back from FUNDING , BUILDING , FORUM groups
2. If as many people as possible could write down a list of possibl activities that they would see as going on in the place.

J.K. There are two buildings in Buccleuch st. One is an old small warehouse a ground floor and three floors, called the Box factory. The other is the old Garnethill Girls School. They've both been empty for some years. One possibility is just to begin squatting and go from there. The Scottish International Educational Trust which was started by Sean Connery is trying to put money into working projects in Scotland. I made an approach and he said he was very interested in putting money into this. He would buy a building.

C.R. If we're going to be getting a lot of money to buy a building I dont see why we should choose one which would need a lot of repair, is hard to heat. Why choose old warehouses, it seems a waste. I suppose because the idea started out from seizing a building, just taking it, we still automatically think of a building which has been empty for several years and which nobody else would want anyway. But now our options have changed.

I.M. With the Box factory youre dealing with a private company and would be quite expensive for what it is. It probably wouldnt attract grants, its not a listed building. The school is, and would attract grants. There is a surplus of listed buildings. Its incredible the amount of beautiful buildings which are lying ready.

M.D. Why didnt the immediate Theatre Co. want funding from the local state but you got funding from private individuals - Is that a political reason?

I.M. We're getting funding from the District and Arts Council, its a one off. We're not continually going back cap in hand every year. We didnt want a councillor on the committee. If you do that youve got to have some sort of political representation. They tried to force their way in but we just stood firm.

T.L. Get hold of a press, get hold of a photocopier and an actual "debating chamber", that would be a more abstract thing.

M.D. There must be better places outside the centre of the city, it seems more logical to move out. How many people have access to the centre. I mean it would be quite nice for us.

K.M. If you get trapped in the local neighbourhood your going to get local community figures interfering and they would'nt be interfering for the purpose of creating a dynamic instution. They'd be interfering because it's their patch. So wheresthis mystical community going to be. Thats the attraction of the city centre, youve actually got some air that hasnt been coloured by these people.

— One of the things about the centre is that it is in fact the place that the maximum number of people have access to, even if there will be some access diffulties.

C.T. There are no building in - you're talking about housing schemes - there are no buildings except houses. The minuite you try to get one of these you come up against the Housing Deptartment or the Labour Party. You would probably spend about at least two years trying to make some connection with the local community. You would be a community centre then, if you we'nt going to be resented.

T.L. The centre at least is equidistant.

A.G. Surely one of the things that would be required is a register of members that was accessible to all members - taking the line that people wer'nt going to be excluded. It would be a matter of names, addresses, particular skill, telephone number if they had one. Housepainter if that was the thing they were skilled in doing, and people with certain kinds of equiptment, and somebody with a car. What I mean is, if we have a situation where if we have folk wanting to do a job which might involve renovating a small section of a building or making a film and didnt have the skills to doit they could

P.M. You've got to go out and say to folk, we're here and this is what we're doing. The skills exchange and the forum idea are twe important things in relation to that. In what sense is this going to be a learning and a teaching institution.

P.K. The notice board is a good way to begin. You could get quite informally a whole cluster of reading groups for example, happening. So the idea of a forum independent of official education can just get going.

J.K. I'm wary of the notion "teacher", perhaps the most crutial thing is the chance for people in this room, two or three rooms, to sit and talk.

A.D. Is it the desire of all of us as complete individuals to go out and convert other people to something or is the primary desire that brings us together the recognition of a certain insufficiency in ourselves, in our linkages.

I.M. Insufficiencies in ourselves are in fact insufficiencies in culture as a whole. The idea of going out and being evangelical is impossible for a lot of people. We might be able to get over both problems, syllabus and also the teacher student relationship - which is obviously something we want to get rid of. Remembering that we want some sort of organization as instrumental to getting money, if we just think of things in some form roughly like reading groups or whatever we call it - projects?

T.L. It's all to do with experience. If it's an individual experience or whether through talking or through doing something, or being in the presence of people that you can have a right good fucking arguement with. If something could be structured into something useful but absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with syllabuses and projects - even the word 'subjects' - that just sounds awful. I thought the idea of an alternative University was begining by assuming it's a kind of open-ended University. Like there's no patriarchs and no tutors but none the less what we have here is "wee bodies" who are centring round this and there will be somebody who'll be leading subtley: through teaching methods. Ha! The whole idea insofar as is understood is a kind of consensus, that has got nothing to do with anyone going there to maybe learn something.

J.K. Someone would have to lead initially - say we've got a place next week, somebody would have to lead a discussion; but maybe that would just happen at that stage, maybe after three months it would change.

From peoples' different written visions of the place

A building -with-no-walls:that is, a radion station.
An archive.
Oral history facilities.
The technological facilities for printing and publishing.
An arts production collective working out of a warehouse/yard,running a recycling plant to gather its materials,provide means of employment.
Different types of social bases: cafes,bookspace,donation-library.

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The constituency imagined was similar to the one for alternativism - predominantly young, leftish,and having tertiary education. Even where individuals expressed some dissatisfaction with alternativism,the centre seemed to be conceived as appealing to the same constituency, if only as a means of saving them from the apoliticism supposedly brought about by parenthood and an apparently inevitable yuppiedom. I think we should break from any conception of political activity which has as its paradigm the activity of the young/educated Left,or which fails to recognise thast having children,being middle-aged etc,breed their own radical concerns (and in addition,leave one without the possibility of opting for 'solid jobs in universities and things').Beware of reproducing the post-28 syndrome by conceiving of the place narrowly in terms which are more suited to the needs of the pre-28s.I'd like the place to be a place for strangers to meet,not to establish a crippling intimacy,but to engage in activity which is essentially public.The metaphors I prefer to that of a living-room are a parliament,an arena,a stage.The Free Uni could serve as aresource and meeting-place,and if socially -engaged,could be a genuinely democratic interchange without preconceptions such as 'bringing culture to the masses etc.. A precondition of it functioning would be the overthrow of the missionary manner and social-worky legacy of the 1960s/70s.

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A day and night identitiy with cheap but decent tea and coffee.V.important this.
Writing spaces for people who live in overcrowded flats where intimacy/quiet/solitary work is impossible.Drop Free Uni/Centre & call it sthing neutral like Centre 42 orGatewayXchang
Creche,and if possible always women working there.
Offer space to other groups in order to maintain new blood/forge links/keep alive.
Study-groups,and spaces for them to have workshops in.
Libraries are repressive in that they have too many books.Therefore,a library of books for purposes;a programme of writing comments on books in big ledgers so borrowers can browse through comments as well(like the old WEA libraries).
Public information-gathering banks on persons,institutuions and events.

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MOTIVE:recognition of alienation /lack of communication as common predicament of disparate individuals. Need to provide crossroads/transition space.
REVENUE-GENERATING ACTIVITIES: Accomodation,studio space,workshops,food and drink,co-op.
UNFASHIONABLE ENTHUSIASMS: exercise/gym,video equipment,woodwork,hobbies made public-see what the chat before/in-between/after amounts to(brings unlikely new blood).
Provide warmth,comfort,company,literature.

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Typewriters,printing facilities may lead on to weekly newspaper - apprenticeships.
A way of thinking so that things could be put out,so the building does not just 'sit'there, but has things going on inside that then go out. Machinery could be used to do 'outside' jobs,which not only widens the doings of the building but could help with money.
Having people working and getting paid is important - voluntary often means temporary, ie. middle class/those who can afford to give their time away for nothing.Offering alternatives to poverty as well as spiritual satisfaction would get additional interesting people in.

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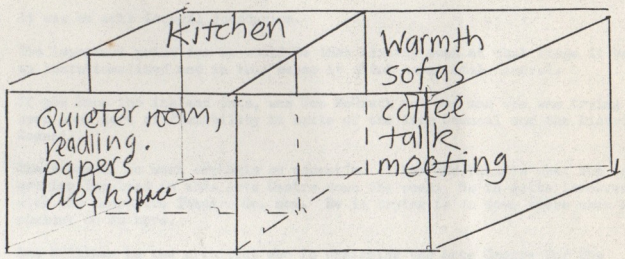
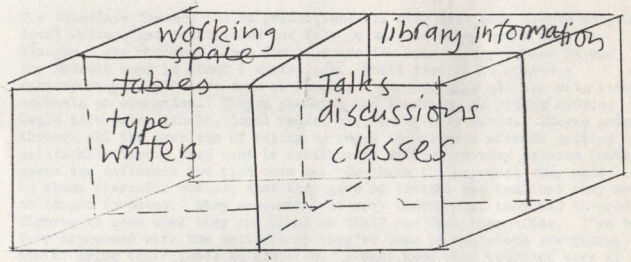
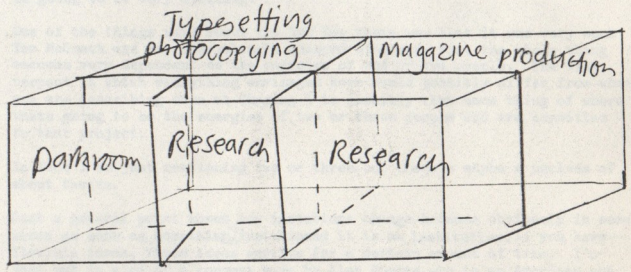
NOTES FROM MEETING 14/2/87

- access to building from peripheral positions of city
- need for convenient lie to get £££££
- draw people in through notices in libraries,unemp.centres
- skills exchange,register of intentions
- while not wanting the thing to become a bureaucracy, beware of spending all the time keeping it flexibel
- think about giving spaces over to existing concerns
- besides the £££££$$$$$ thing there is a need to set out an IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM about what the thing's about
- reading groups
- syllabus or not to syllabus
- 24hours/7 days a week
- rotating bosses/bullies
- rhetoric,public speaking
- where experience meets argument
- joinup the parallel lines
- discuss newtowns,damp,allotments
- get book to put down groupthought







RECORD of third FUG meeting, March 21, 1987

The meeting opened at about 6.30pm and closed at about 9.30pm. It fell into roughly three areas:

1. report back from building group
2. report back from funding group
3. general/ist matters and report from forum group.

NM made the important point that people should, as far as possible, see that membership of these groups overlaps. The very concept of a forum necessitates building and financial organisation, and it is in the spirit of FUG that buildings and finance involve ideas.

1. REPORT BACK FROM BUILDING GROUP

(a) longterm possibilities: (i) Garnethill School in Buccleugh St
(ii) Royal Academy Building in Nelson Mandela Place

(i) school surplus to Region's requirements, therefore Council likely to be sympathetic to seeing it used for an educational project. Support from certain councillors likely. Big: but classroom accommodation felt to be a bit rigid and uninspiring.

(ii) being sold in three lots; we're interested in lot A. Very expensive; offers in in a week. Money? But the space is amazing, flexible, inspiring, central and, unlike most old buildings, would not cost so much to run, as space could be leased to other ventures.

(b) short term possibilities: (i) Marwhill Rooms and (ii) Quaker Basement in Sauchiehall St seem most promising; (iii) other ideas not really discussed include Transmission,

(i) various rooms for a fee I missed
(ii) free, large, several rooms, FOE just moving out. Dark, a bit damp, but for a year or so, and for our meetings and some public ones, a good offer.

2. REPORT BACK FROM FUNDING GROUP

(a) NW reported, that the FG felt it was necessary to adopt a model constitution (which need be implemented, if at all, only when the Inland Revenue give charitable status) because most trusts only give to recognised charities. Basically this means
(i) a Management Committee with Treasurer, Secretary, Chair and members with voting rights
(ii) no overtly (ie party-) political aims
(iii) abroad set of aims and objectives ("to sevre the people of Glasgow and environs")
(iv) AGMs, and a quorum of membership needed for constitution and dissolution.

Beyond this, charitable status is basically a rubberstamp from the Inland Revenue, and means kudos and release from paying tax. Some also felt the constitution would work as a useful safety mechanism --- guarding against entrists taking things over, etc. There was much discussion as to how to ensure the Management Committee did not take things over or get landed with all the work: enlarging the quorum, letting ordinary members vote in MC meetings, etc. A minority felt the constitution to be per se undesirable; but, as NW stressed, there is no need to implement it.

(b) PK reported on a visit to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, who advised charitable status, gave a directory of grant-making organisations and were supportive. 'She had imagination'.

Copies of charitable constitutions, this direcory, Inland Revenue Guidelines, the RSAMD Plans, distributed and discussed.

(c) We are to compile a list of people who can be tapped for sums of money from £5 up for short term finance. We are passing round a hat amongst ourselves for postage money, etc.

3. Forum Matters

1. THE MOST PRESSING MATTER IS TO DVELOP A PROPAGANDA SHEET EXPLAINING WHO, WHAT AND WHY THE FUG IS. FUNDING AND BUILDING HAVE ALREADY FELT A NEED FOR THIS AND CAN DO LITTLE MORE WITHOUT ONE. THE IDENTITY IS OF COURSE AN INTERIM/FRONT ONE, BUT SHOULD BE COHERENT AND CONVINCING. THIS IS TOP OF AGENDA FOR NEXT FORUM MEETING, BUT EVERYONE SHOULD MAKE NOTES IN THE MEANTIME.
(a) what we want to achieve (Aims)
(b) how --- concretely, specifically --- we hope to achieve it (Objectives)

2. Last Forum Meeting: there is a photocopy going round, of things discussed. The main matter --- a potential problem --- was that the Forum group seems somewhat closed, made up mostly of Here & Now people. The group is developing strategies ('Bully') to ensure (a) that the sphere is public enough to let newcomers enter discussions on an equal footing and (b) that discussions should be accessible and useful, not collective barings of souls.

3. For the Future: Some confusion noted as to forum's role. It is for organising now, less for longterm aims (a reason to keep reinvolving discussion of Aims in Finance and Building groups). Ideas: (a) travelling Fora (???)
(b) --- a firm resolution --- to organise public meeting around theme of Glasgow 1990-Culture City (another idea: meeting about Doomsday and after???)
(c) involve Forum in meetings around some guerilla art group fae London visiting Transmission (I forget their name)

NEXT FULL MEETING: April 15, 6.30 LYNEDOCH STREET, no.7, c/o E. WOODLANDS TRUST off Woodlands Road (nr. Petrol Station)
BRING: good ideas for a FUG BENEFIT, around 14/21 June
notes for a Shbet to present to funders
names for list of people to tap money off

SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM GROUP, FREE UNIVERSITY ---- 3. 4. 87

Sederunt: Simon Brown, Alastair Dickson, Alison McLeod, Pete Watson, Jayne Taylor, Keith Millar, Peter McCarey, Peter Kravitz, Billy Clark, Gerrie Fellows, Donald McLaughlin, Maria Cardinesv
Apologies: Terry Delaney, Malcolm Dickson, Karen Strang.

Matters aired at the meeting can perhaps best be classified under two headings: (1) those to do with structural considerations of future fora, or the form such get-togethers might take; and (2) their possible content, i.e. specific proposals as to topics of discussion.

(1) Form:
How open should meetings be? Inconclusive. Suggestion that, once premises are availible, meetings be held every regular so often open to all interested persons.
How should meetings be publicized? The topic or pretext could be printed and distributed beforehand as a handbill or small poster. Strategic distribution could ensure that a broad range of potentially interested persons could be reached. Also suggested was a written document describing the aims and history so far of the F.U. This was agreed to be important, and in order to clarify the existing vagueness as to aims it was proposed that every member be invited to contribute a written statement outlining her/his idea of the aim and purpose of the F.U.. In order to curb excessive loquacity and diffuseness, it was agreed that this statement would have to be limited in length, e.g. one side of A4.
Formality/informality. Some degree of formality was agreed to be necessary in order to avoid the 'therapeutic', ad nominem argument, and to maintain a distance between the personality of the speaker and the ideas expressed. Certain roles were proposed, besides those of Bully and Provocateur: Visionary and Cynic, or Devil's advocate. Some kind of formal device must also be used to keep discussion meaningful and stop it degenerating into a mutual bitching or slagging session.

(2) Content:
Where is Scottish Culture going?
What will be the cultural situation after independence?
Identity as Scottish.
Is a national culture possible, or desirable, in the present age?

F. U. G. M E E T I N G IV 25 April 1987.

Rough agenda:

(1) Look at what subgroups are doing - is there a need for reorganising?
(2) Social Event
(3) Forum ideas & planning
(4) Constitution
(5) Newsletter

(1) SUBGROUPS

A number of points wewe raised in relation to the subgroups and the communications between them and between them and the general body of members. Is there a need to make general meetings more frequent, to improve continuity/ speed up organising of business/ events? - at present there's a danger of things happening too autonomously. After consideration, it was agreed to have general meetings every 3 weeks on a trial basis for the next two meetings. At these meetings have time set aside for 'business'/sub-group report-backs and rest of time for ideas etc. discussion & planning. Next meeting is on 16th May, next after that on 6th June.

(2) SOCIAL EVENT & DAY F.U.G.

Possible venues: Friends of the Earth building: need to check out if the space is available. Maryhill Central Halls: 19th June is only available social date. Need to find out likely cost. Purpose of social: funding/ social/ publicity. NEXT Meeting of interested folk on Thursday MAY 14th at 57 West End Park Street. Aim for Friday 19th June. [at 8.00pm]

Day F.U.G. event: After discussion it was agreed to hold day event same weekend as social. Date agreed was Saturday 20th. This would also tie in with Transmission event on the Sunday. Agreed an idea for day event: to bring together radical Scottish magazines (e.g. Radical Scotland, Cencrastus, Here & Now) - provide a forum for them to talk publicly about (their?) politics & their way of changing things/ how they see change happening. This would tie in with issues already raised for exploring within F.U.G. There was a possibility that the proximity of the election would restrict discussion to G. Election/ concrete change, but reckoned it would be interesting anyway. We could also hold a similar event in Edinburgh at a future date.

Date set for day event: Sat 20th June, 2 - 6 p.m.

The Building Committee will plan a venue - with enough space for a creche. Jenny will contact magazines.

There is a need for someone to take on co-ordinating of meetings. Agreed to announce date & venue of meetings at general meetings so anyone interested will know about it.

(4) CONSTITUTION: see below.

(5) NEWSLETTER.

Agreed to meet on Saturday 2nd May at 12 noon at to discuss possible counter response to the Scottish Money Show.

Other ideas: Alternative banking, explore credit unions? How do we move from self-interest to co-operative interest and avoid co-operative's self-interest.

Constructing a contemporary way out of the money frame-up. Look at security needs and possible alternatives: housing/ co-op housing; banks/ credit unions, etc.

Using video as a way of getting people to talk about why they do things.

Make contact with Glasgow Film & Video Workshop and Alva Film Workshop.

Someone from these organizations to be asked along to 'Money' meeting on 2nd May. NEXT 'MONEY' meeting at 8.00pm FRI 8th MAY, at CAROL RHODES'S 110 HILL ST.

Contact list: Send, or bring to next meeting, names & addresses of any groups/ organizations you have contact with that might be useful (see Jenny). Also send or bring to next meeting names of groups/individuals that F.U.G. could contact through you.

Form a 'Radio Listeners' Association' as a front to lobby government. There's currently a Govt Green Paper out on local community radio. Contact here might be: Lothian Youth Media Trust - John McVey.

Future reference: Using the Media (Pluto Press).

(Peter may do some work on this).

CONSTITUTION.

Peter reported back on Janet Castro's (SCVS) suggested changes to constitution. Mainly minor & technical. On majority vote agreed to withdraw clause that members/ council shd be at least 50% women.

Peter will pass on draft to CT for typing & send to Inland Revenue. While IR are looking at it , it will be circulated to everyone, so final constitution can be adopted a.s.a.p.

SCET: Sean Connery has not been contacted yet as he's been filming. It was noted that document to be sent to SCET is not a manifesto but is to ask for money. Document now is:

Why we want this building
Why there is a need for a FU
What is a FU
Who's involved.

Document needs finished. Problems writing the section on 'why there is a need for a FU'. Nicky will be a re-centraliser for what's going on & document will be brought to next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: 7 LYNEDOCH STREET, CHARING CROSS, 16th MAY, at 6.30 P.M.